

Appl. No. : 10/771,703
Filed : February 4, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 as indicated below.

Please cancel Claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 10-14.

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or [[deletion]]):

1. (Currently Amended) A one-piece tee for supporting a golf ball, comprising an elongated body having a head on one end formed to receive and support a golf ball and having a ~~tip~~ an end portion on its other end adapted to penetrate the ground to support the tee head at a desired height, the end portion having a cross-sectional area, a first stop on the body spaced upwardly from the tip, the first stop formed by a first plurality of ribs of the body extending along at least a first portion of the body adjacent to and spaced upwardly from the end portion, the first portion of the body including the first plurality of ribs having a first being of constant cross-sectional area larger than the cross-sectional area of the end portion, a first stop formed by the first plurality of ribs where the first portion of the body is adjacent to the end portion ~~width along at least a portion of the ribs~~, the first stop being constructed to enable a person to sense the increased penetration resistance encountered when the first stop engages the ground so that a first depth of penetration will indicate the approximate amount of the tee extending above the first stop, which would be a desirable location for positioning the golf ball to be hit by a large head golf club, the first stop being further constructed such that the tee can be normally inserted further without difficulty to a second depth desirable for use with a golf club having a smaller head.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The tee of Claim [[2]]1, including ~~a second stop on the body spaced from the first stop towards the head, the second stop formed by a second plurality of ribs of the body extending along at least a second portion of the body spaced upwardly from the first portion of the body, the second portion of the body including the second plurality of ribs having a second constant cross-sectional area larger than the first constant cross-sectional area, a second stop formed by the second plurality of ribs~~, the second stop being constructed to provide

increased resistance to insertion of the tee into the ground so as to enable the person to sense that the second depth has been reached.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The tee of Claim [[4]]3, wherein the first plurality of ribs extends between the first stop and the second stop.

6. (Currently Amended) The tee of Claim 3, wherein the tee is about three inches in length, the ~~first stop is spaced~~ end portion is about three-quarters of an inch in length from the tip, and the first portion of the body is about one-half of an inch in length ~~second stop is spaced about one and a quarter inch from the tip.~~

7. (Original) The tee of Claim 3, wherein said body includes visual marking that will indicate to a person the depth at which the tee has been inserted into the ground.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of positioning the head of a golf tee at a desired distance above the ground, comprising inserting an end portion ~~the tip end~~ of the golf tee into the ground until a depth of penetration is reached, the end portion having a cross-sectional area, the depth of penetration indicated by a first stop on the tee at which a person can feel a marked increase in the resistance to insertion, but yet can be readily inserted further, the first stop formed by a first plurality of ribs extending along at least a first portion of the tee adjacent to and spaced upwardly from the end portion, the first portion of the tee including the first plurality of ribs having a first ~~being of constant~~ cross-sectional area larger than the cross-sectional area of the end portion ~~width along at least a portion of the ribs,~~ the first stop providing an indication of the amount of tee extending above the first stop suitable for use in connection with a large golf club head.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, further comprising inserting the tee further into the ground until a second stop on the tee encounters the ground, the second stop formed by a second plurality of ribs extending along at least a second portion of the tee spaced upwardly from the first portion of the tee, the second portion of the tee including the second plurality of ribs having a second constant cross-sectional area larger than the first constant cross-sectional area, the second stop providing a second increase in resistance to penetration that indicates a second amount of tee extending above the second stop suitable for use in connection with a smaller golf club head.

10. (New) The tee of Claim 1, further comprising an annular ring spaced upwardly from the first stop, the annular ring providing a second stop.

11. (New) A one-piece tee for supporting a golf ball, the tee comprising:

a head formed to receive and support a golf ball;

an end portion formed to penetrate the ground so as to support the head at a desired height above the ground, the end portion having a cross-sectional area; and

a first portion adjacent to and spaced upwardly from the end portion, the first portion including a plurality of ribs extending at least along the first portion, the first portion including the plurality of ribs having a first constant cross-sectional area larger than the cross-sectional area of the end portion, wherein the plurality of ribs form a first stop where the first portion is adjacent to the end portion, the first stop adapted to engage the ground and to provide increased penetration resistance indicative of a first depth of penetration.

12. (New) The tee of Claim 11, further comprising a second portion spaced upwardly from the first portion, the second portion including a second plurality of ribs extending at least along the second portion, the second portion including the second plurality of ribs having a second constant cross-sectional area larger than the first constant cross-sectional area, wherein the second plurality of ribs form a second stop adapted to engage the ground and to provide increased penetration resistance indicative of a second depth of penetration.

13. (New) The tee of Claim 11, further comprising a second portion adjacent to and spaced upwardly from the first portion, wherein the plurality of ribs further extend along the second portion, the second portion including the plurality of ribs having a second constant cross-sectional area larger than the first constant cross-sectional area, wherein the plurality of ribs form a second stop where the second portion is adjacent to the first portion, the second stop adapted to engage the ground and to provide increased penetration resistance indicative of a second depth of penetration.

14. (New) The tee of Claim 11, further comprising an annular ring spaced upwardly from the first stop, the annular ring providing a second stop.